WARREN MAGAZINE

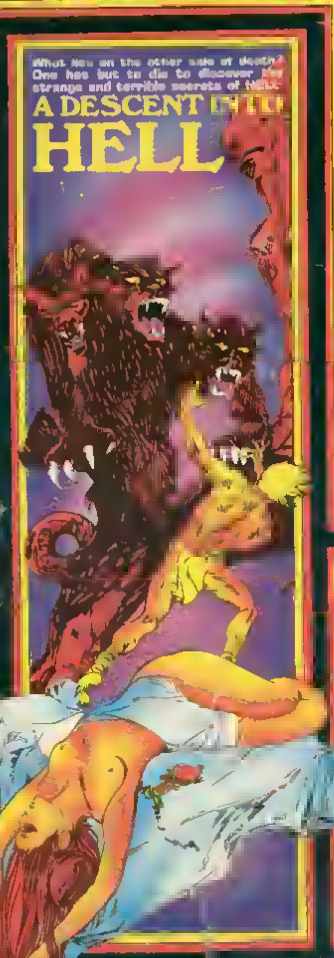
NOW! FULL COLOR COMICS!

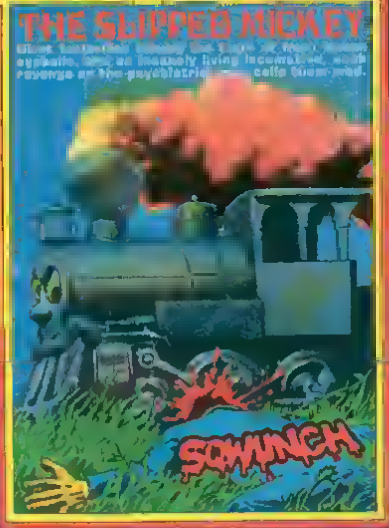
CREEPY

563808 PDC 75¢

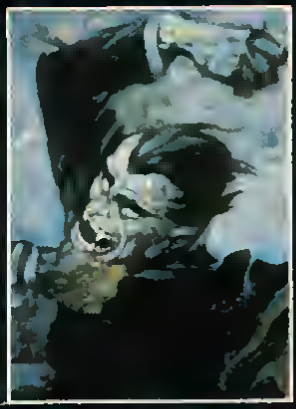
CREEPY 54

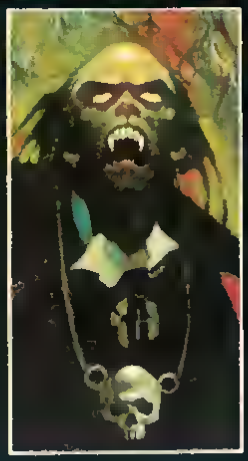
JULY 1973





Let's face facts...





The simple truth of the matter is, there's a DRACULA craze going on! And a lot of publishing companies are capitalizing on it . . . flooding your newsstand with so many DRACULA titles that it's sure to confuse you! We don't want you to be confused! And we don't want you to buy one thing thinking you're getting something else! There is only one FULL-COLOR, SOFT-BOUND BOOK bearing the DRACULA title! It's chock-full of the most exciting and dramatically different comic art ever to see print in America. And every page is a spectrum of color! You may have seen her ed! Don't let it confuse you! Our colorful DRACULA volume is available only by mail, direct from Warren Publishing Company! The quality Dracula!

...there's a lot of Draculas running around!

Dracula

SEE OUR DRACULA AD ON THE INSIDE BACK COVER OF THIS ISSUE

OUR COVER
Esteban Maroto, Reed Crandall and Richard Corben share cover honors as we give you a special sneak preview of the super color awaiting you in this issue's eight-page classic, "A Descent Into Hell" Page 31

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CREEPY

CONTENTS ISSUE NO. 54 JULY 1973

4 **DEAR UNCLE CREEPY** The surprise sneak preview of our full-color DRACULA volume floored CREEPY readers who anticipated a usual issue of black and white art. This issue, color in the Dracula tradition.

6 **CREEPY'S CATACOMBS** What's it like to be a reknown comic artist? Jaime Brocal doesn't know, but tells about the way we kick him around when he brings in his assignments. More of our fabulous secrets.

7 **SLIPPED MICKEY CLICK-FLIP** Get your ugly puss out of this magazine, you warty-nosed little ghoul! There's wonders here that could cloud your warped little mind forever! Especially if we slip you a Mickey!

18 **THIS GRAVEYARD** There are some men in every age who can kill with righteous calm! During the late 1800's, Nate Crill was one of those men. Nate Crill killed for fun! For him it was a profession and a deadly game!

31 **A DESCENT INTO HELL** A lone boatman finds himself paddling down a river of blood, while the land around him takes on the consistency of human flesh. Demons lurk in them hills. For this is the land of the dead.

40 **DEAD MAN'S RACE** Legend has it that the last man buried in a cemetery becomes an ankon, a walking corpse, destined to prowl the cemetery, guarding over the bodies of those laid to rest. It is an honor to be an ankon.

59 **LITTLE NIPPERS** Lemuel Gulliver found us first! An island of tiny men! But when Gulliver came to our land, he brought a plague . . . the plague of the vampire! Soon the entire population of our island were vampires!

CONCERNING OUR MAIL ORDER ADVERTISEMENTS: Warren Publishing Co. guarantees the delivery and satisfaction of all items advertised in this issue. Should you need to write us concerning an order, whether it be from our address or a Post Office Box address, send your letter to: E.C. Ivas, Customer Service Dept., Warren Publishing Co., 145 E. 32nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10016.

CREEPY'S CATACOMBS

EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT

JAIME BROCAL

A VERY EERIE ARTIST WITH A CREEPY MIND

What can one say about a quiet bespectacled man like Jaime Brocal, except that under all those mild mannerisms, lurks the mind of a weirdo who likes to draw horror comics with strong sexual overtones!

Jaime is the illustrative half of the Skeates-Brocal team who bring you the adventures of **The Mummy** in every issue of EERIE magazine! He has worked for the Warren comics for two years putting forth such classics as "The Third Night of Morning "from Creepy #49 and the Prince Torgo adventures from CREEPY and EERIE

Jaime is 35, and comes from Valencia Spain Unlike the **Mummy**, he is married and a **daddy**! Also unlike the Mummy, and contrary to a popular rumor Jaime does **not** walk the streets at night in musty old bandages! The only odd thing about him is that he gave up an exciting career in teaching to become a comic book illustrator!

The Brocal name was first seen on a comic strip when Jaime drew up a Sunday newspaper supplement in his native Valencia He adapted the Jules Verne novels From there he went on to western strips war comics, and for awhile even drew the popular "Saint' series, before making his home with the Warren magazines!

Is Jaime with Warren to stay? He likes working on The Mummy series And he's hoping reaction to the strip is favorable If not—? Well then it's back to drawing Prince Torgo and Steve Skeates continuation of Aquaman in the Warren books!

Jaime Brocal's Mummy ought to get a real kick out of seeing this classic art from the first Mummy.

WHAT'S NEWS

It was **inevitable**! When you readers saw the eight-page preview of our new full-color **Dracula** volume, back in the March issues of CREEPY and VAMPIRELLA your avalanche of letters dictated that we **do** it So do it we did! CREEPY and VAMPIRELLA take one giant leap forward for comics with eight-pages of **all-new** Warren magazine **super-color**, beginning this month The same luscious colors we gave you in our full-sized **Dracula** volume

But what's this no color for EERIE? EERIE, too, is getting a face-lifting The ever-popular **Dracula**, **Werewolf**, **Mummy** and **Dax** strips only started a new line-up for our Cousin's magazine Coming up next, you'll see **The Immortals**, ages-old beings altering the course of history back in the early 1900's Then **The Spook** will haunt you in the night with his EERIE adventures! It shall return from the grave once more too our own version of the Swamp-Dead-Man-Thing And if **Voodoo Papa Grenouville** doesn't scare the pants off your rosie-red tush you're reading the wrong magazines! We've got a whole crypt full of characters to unleash upon you in the months ahead And each issue of EERIE will bring you a totally new line-up of CREEPY-crawley-stars, rotating from issue to issue It's the variety you've come to expect from Warren Publishing and it's true **horror** comics as you like them We hope you're with us in this all-new Warren era!

FANZINE REVIEWS

FILE FORTY
13301 Zircon Drive
Bowie, Maryland
25¢

File Forty is all about that long-dead TV series **Man From Uncle.** And issue #5 is one big spoof on the whole UNCLE craze There's articles, a spoof entitled "The Man From COUSIN" and even comic strips featuring the UNCLE stars One noteworthy strip teams UNCLE with **James Bond,** and some clown in a mask who calls himself **The Spirit**! It's a reprint actually of an early strip by Warren editor Bill DuBay back when Dube was a **good** artist! A good buy for a fanzine with a 25¢ pricetag!

REMEMBER WHEN
1830 Highland Drive
Carrollton, Texas
65¢

Remember When is now more than a year old But it recalls the fantasy world created by Edgar Rice Burroughs Which is to say it is untimely! For 65¢ this 32-page capsule history of Burroughs cinematic literary and comic successes with Tarzan the Mars and Pellucidar series' is a fantastic fanzine bargain! There's a reprint of the first Hal Foster Tarzan Sunday page, numerous Burrough's-related comic and magazine covers depicted plus a short interview with Johnny Weissmuller

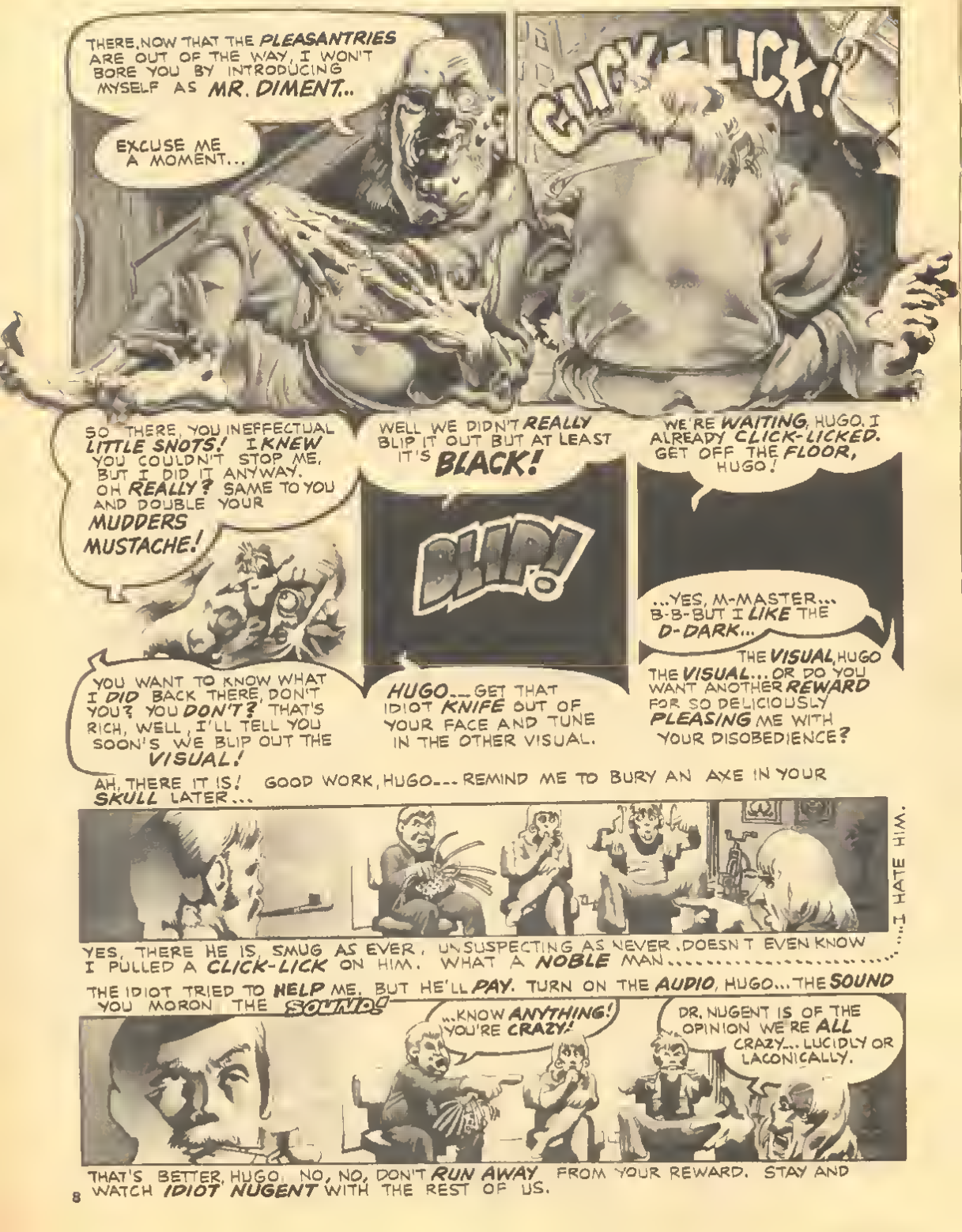
MAXOR
9875 SW 212 Street
Miami, Florida
$1.25

John Adkins Richardson is quite possibly the best new artist to come onto the comics scene since Alex Raymond His work is illustrative imaginative, and of a much higher quality than is usually found in an amateur publication **Maxor** is an excellent example of his artistry! Unfortunately, John's writing abilities are nowhere equal to his art talent! And from a story point of view **Maxor** falls flat on his Cirodean face! As is usual, with this SFCA publication you end up expecting more for your $1 25

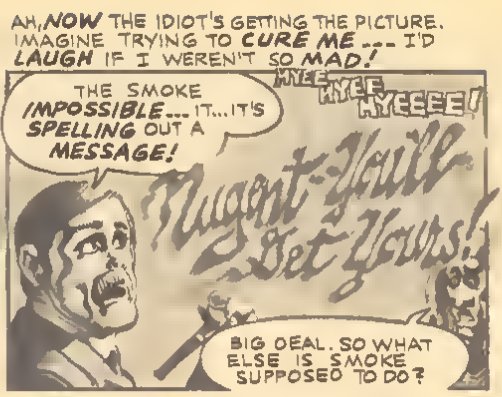
NEW YORK COMIC ART CONVENTION

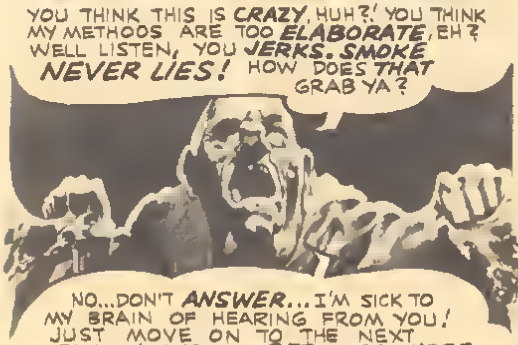
THE WORLD'S BIGGEST COMIC ART CONVENTION JULY 4 5, & 7 HOTEL COMMODORE, PARK AVE & 42ND ST NEW YORK CITY

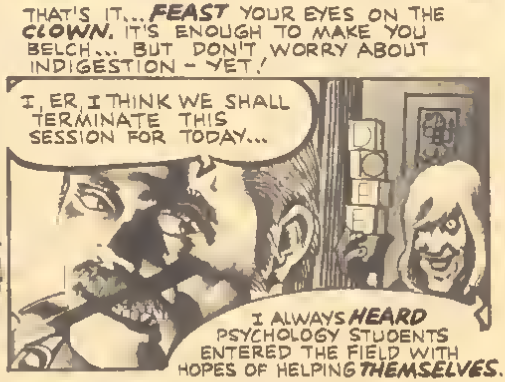
AS ALL YOU LOYAL READERS WELL KNOW, I'M ANYTHING BUT A WITCH... BUT JUST THE SAME I'VE BEEN BURNED! I'VE BEEN THE HOST OF THIS MAGAZINE FOR MORE ISSUES THAN A VAMPIRE HAS TEETH!
...AND NOW THE IDIOT WRITER OF THIS IDIOT STORY HAS USURPED... TAKEN AWAY FROM ME--- MY HONORED AND LONG HELD POSITION ONLY TO GIVE IT TO SOME NEW IDIOT HOST!
UNFAIR TO LOCAL 73 OF HORROR HOSTS
BUT I HAVE OPTIONS ON REVENGE, FAITHFUL FREAK CREEPS... AND WHILE I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO TELL THE FOLLOWING STORY, I'VE GOTTEN EVEN BY GIVING IT THE IDIOT TITLE OF...
THE SLIPPED MICKEY
CLICK FLIP
DON'T PAY ANY ATTENTION, DO YOU HEAR.. TO THAT WEIRDO---HE'S JUST MAD. BUT THAT'S A GOOD THING, I THINK. IF THINK I DO. WHICH IS A DANGEROUS THING BECAUSE THINKING CAN DRIVE YOU MAD, WHICH IS A GOOD THING TOO.
AND IT'S WHAT WE'RE ALL HERE FOR, ISN'T IT? I DON'T KNOW! I REALLY CAN'T THINK STRAIGHT BUT THAT'S TO BE EXPECTED SINCE THEY'RE ALL AFTER ME. BESIDES I THINK HE CAME UP WITH A VERY GOOD TITLE INDEED... WHICH MAY BE A BAD THING.
YOU DID WELL, HUGO, AND THAT DISPLEASES ME WHICH EARNS YOU A REWARD!
MASTER! MASTER! I DID AS YOU SAID--- I FED THE HOT DOGS TO THE TELEVISION SET EVEN THOUGH IT WASN'T HUNGRY AND I HAD TO CUT MY HANDS!
OH, THANK YOUUUU...
THUKK
STORY: DOUG MOENCH / ART: RICHARD CORBEN


THERE, NOW THAT THE PLEASANTRIES ARE OUT OF THE WAY, I WON'T BORE YOU BY INTRODUCING MYSELF AS MR. DIMENT...
EXCUSE ME A MOMENT...
CLICK-LICK!
SO THERE, YOU INEFFECTUAL LITTLE SNOTS! I KNEW YOU COULDN'T STOP ME, BUT I DID IT ANYWAY. OH REALLY? SAME TO YOU AND DOUBLE YOUR MUDDERS MUSTACHE!
WELL WE DIDN'T REALLY BLIP IT OUT BUT AT LEAST IT'S BLACK!
BLIP!
WE'RE WAITING, HUGO. I ALREADY CLICK-LICKED. GET OFF THE FLOOR, HUGO!
...YES, M-MASTER... B-B-BUT I LIKE THE D-DARK...
THE VISUAL, HUGO THE VISUAL... OR DO YOU WANT ANOTHER REWARD FOR SO DELICIOUSLY PLEASING ME WITH YOUR DISOBEDIENCE?
YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT I DID BACK THERE, DON'T YOU? YOU DON'T? THAT'S RICH, WELL, I'LL TELL YOU SOON'S WE BLIP OUT THE VISUAL!
HUGO... GET THAT IDIOT KNIFE OUT OF YOUR FACE AND TUNE IN THE OTHER VISUAL.
AH, THERE IT IS! GOOD WORK, HUGO... REMIND ME TO BURY AN AXE IN YOUR SKULL LATER...
...I HATE HIM.
YES, THERE HE IS, SMUG AS EVER, UNSUSPECTING AS NEVER. DOESN'T EVEN KNOW I PULLED A CLICK-LICK ON HIM. WHAT A NOBLE MAN.....
THE IDIOT TRIED TO HELP ME, BUT HE'LL PAY. TURN ON THE AUDIO, HUGO... THE SOUND YOU MORON! THE SOUND!
...KNOW ANYTHING! YOU'RE CRAZY!
DR. NUGENT IS OF THE OPINION WE'RE ALL CRAZY... LUCIDLY OR LACONICALLY.
THAT'S BETTER, HUGO. NO, NO, DON'T RUN AWAY FROM YOUR REWARD. STAY AND WATCH IDIOT NUGENT WITH THE REST OF US.

NOW, NOW. CRAZY IS NOT A WORD I LIKE TO... EH? WHAT THE DEVIL!
Nugen


AH, NOW THE IDIOT'S GETTING THE PICTURE. IMAGINE TRYING TO CURE ME --- I'D LAUGH IF I WEREN'T SO MAD!
THE SMOKE IMPOSSIBLE... IT...IT'S SPELLING OUT A MESSAGE!
HYEE HYEE HYEEEE!
Nugent-Youll Get Yours!
BIG DEAL. SO WHAT ELSE IS SMOKE SUPPOSED TO DO?

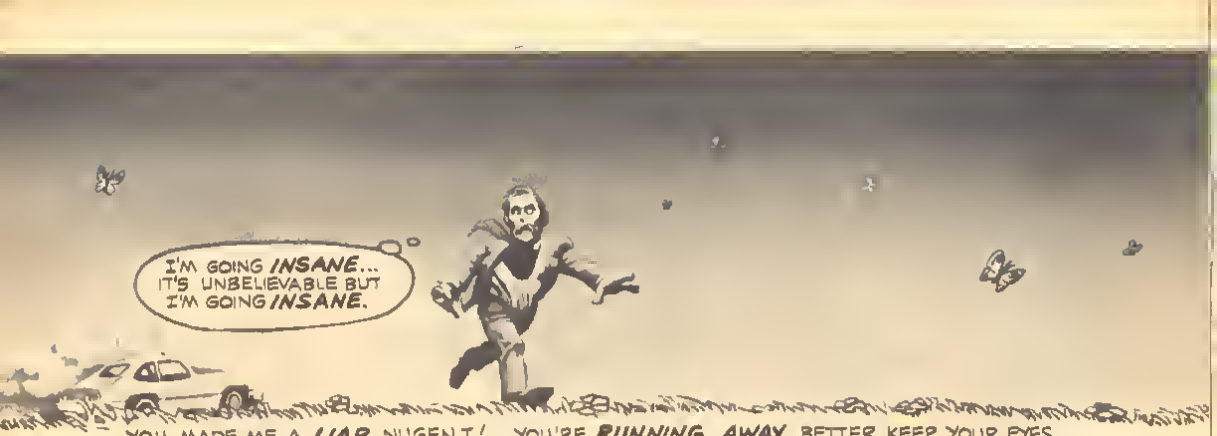

YOU THINK THIS IS CRAZY, HUH?! YOU THINK MY METHODS ARE TOO ELABORATE, EH? WELL LISTEN, YOU JERKS. SMOKE NEVER LIES! HOW DOES THAT GRAB YA?
NO...DON'T ANSWER... I'M SICK TO MY BRAIN OF HEARING FROM YOU! JUST MOVE ON TO THE NEXT PANEL! WELL ---GET OVER THERE, YOU IDIOTS!


THAT'S IT... FEAST YOUR EYES ON THE CLOWN. IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU BELCH... BUT DON'T WORRY ABOUT INDIGESTION - YET!
I, ER, I THINK WE SHALL TERMINATE THIS SESSION FOR TODAY...
I ALWAYS HEARD PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS ENTERED THE FIELD WITH HOPES OF HELPING THEMSELVES.

WASN'T THAT NICE THE WAY WE SKIPPED AHEAD TO THIS CAR SCENE OF IDIOT NUGENT DRIVING HOME?
OVERWROUGHT... TENSION... FATIGUE... THAT'S ALL. JUST NEED SOME REST. PATIENTS GETTING TO ME.
I ALWAYS KNEW HE HAD TOO MUCH COURAGE TO RUN AWAY... SO HE'S DRIVING AWAY...

BUT THE CAR WON'T HELP HIM... WILL IT, HUGO?
GOOD LORD! THE HIGHWAY---IT.. IT'S ALIVE!

LOOK AT HIM SWERVE THAT CAR TO AVOID THE WRITHING RIPPLE OF CONCRETE SERPENTS!...HYEE HYEE...
I REALLY DIG ON THIS OLD REVENGE BIT.
SHREEEE



YOU MADE ME A **LIAR**, NUGENT! YOU'RE **RUNNING AWAY**. BETTER KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE **FLOATING BUTTERFLIES**, MR MADNESS-TAKER...

I **WARNED** YOU, IDIOT! LOOK AT THE WAY THOSE BUTTERFLIES **EXPLODE** INTO OEMENTIA— SPAWNED GROTESQUERIES CRAVING TO **GORGE** UPON YOUR FLESH... HEY, THAT CLICK-LICKER'S REALLY DOING IT'S STUFF!

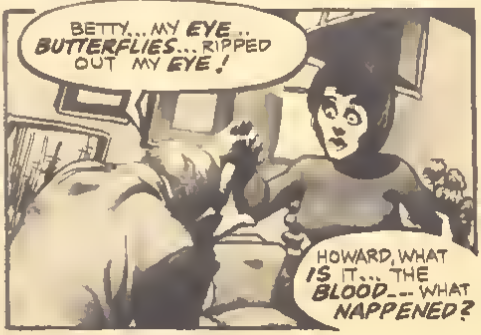
THAT'S IT, NUGENT. **FEEL** THE PINCHING **BARB** OF PUNCTURING TALONS AS THEY **BITE** INTO YOUR EYEBALL, **POP** IT, AND **RIP** IT FROM ITS SOCKET, TRAILING A CRIMSON WASH OF SPLATTERING BLOOD...

WE'LL LEAVE THE OTHER EYEBALL IN, NUGENT... SO YOU CAN **SEE** WHAT COMES **NEXT!**

YOU'VE **TAKEN** SO MUCH MADNESS FROM PEOPLE, NUGENT. YOU'VE **STOLEN** SO MUCH OF IT... **CURED** PEOPLE, AS YOU PHRASE IT... THAT IT'S ALL COMING **BACK** AT YOU, SHRIEKING AND DERANGED, CLANGING **BELLS** AND THUMPING **DRUMS** INSIDE YOUR REVERBERATING MIND...

YES, HUGO AND I AND THE CLICK-LICKER AND ALL THESE IDIOT READERS HAVE LEFT YOU WITH ONE **EYE**, NUGENT... SO YOU COULD **SEE**...

...SO YOU COULD SEE...



...YOUR **WIFE**.

...TO FIND YOUR WAY **HOME**...

SO YOU COULD **SEE**, NUGENT, AND REEL BACK IN REVULSION AT THE ABRUPT **EXPLOSION** OF YOUR BELOVED WIFES **STOMACH** AND THE REVOLTING SPILL OF **CORRUPT MAGGOTS** AND **TANGLE-SLIMED WORMS**.

OH MY GOD NOOOoo!

COME TO ME, HOWARD COME AND LET ME **HUG** YOU.

HOW DOES IT **FEEL** TO HAVE **MADNESS**, A THOUSAND TIMES **COMPOUNDED**, STRIKE BACK, MR PSYCHIATRIST? THAT'S IT; FLEE. THAT'S ALL YOU CAN DO AND IT WON'T DO YOU ANY **GOOD**...

YAAAAAH!

THIS IS ALL PROGRESSING RATHER **WELL**, I THINK. BUT DON'T TAKE **MY** WORD FOR IT. I'M DEMENTED. HAVE I INTRODUCED MYSELF YET? I **HAVE**? IN **THAT** CASE, MY NAME IS MR. DIMENT, FINE THANK YOU.

OH, WHAT **IS** IT HUGO?

MASTER! **MASTER!** RAN OUT OF HOT DOGS TO FEED THE TELEVISION SET.

YOU **IDIOT!** YOUR NEGLIGENCE HAS ONLY **AIDED** MY CLICK-LICK PLAN IN A WAY NOT YET REVEALED... AND FOR **THAT** YOU GET ...**THIS!**

CHWUNG

AH, HERE'S THE ERUDITE NUGENT AGAIN, CATCHING FORTYWINKS. GUESS WE'RE NEARING THE **FINAL STAGES** OF OUR LITTLE PLOT HERE, AT LEAST AS FAR AS **SLEEPING SNOOTY** IS CONCERNED...

WHOOOO

WHOOOOOO

CHUF

CHUF CLICK-LICK

CHUF

CHUF CLICK-LICK

SQWUNCH

I DID IT, I DID IT, I *DID* IT! THE OLD *CLICK-LICK EXPRESS* DIDN'T FAIL ME!

I EVEN HAD THE COHERENCY OF MIND IF THAT'S GOOD TO MAKE NUGENT'S END AN *IRONIC* ONE... HAVING HIS MADNESS-WRAPPED *HEAD PULPED*

BUT IT DOESN'T END *HERE*, YOU IDIOTS! STOP *THINKING* SO MUCH... OR BETTER *YET, START* THINKING. YOU MIGHT *WARP* YDUR *BRAIN*.

BUT I MUST REMEMBER MY *MANNERS*... *EXCUSE* ME A MINUTE...

CLICK-LICK

BUT MASTER, WHAT ABOUT THE *HOT DOGS?*

BLIP

SHUT UP, PUG-FACE AND HIT THE *VISUALS*.

REMEMBER *BETTY?* NUGENT'S *WIFE*. YEAH, YEAH, YDU'VE GDT IT NOW, IDIDTS. WELL ANYWAY, I SEE HER *STOMACH'S* FEELING BETTER BUT THEN THE CLICK-LICK'S NO *CHAUVINIST*... IT'LL TREAT HER JUST AS IT TREATED HER *HUSBAND*...

I *KNEW* IT, I *KNEW* IT. HUGO, YDU'RE A *GENIUS*... IT'S ALL GOING TO *COME OFF SUPERBLY*, MY HUNCHEDBACKED LACKEY!

WONDER WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO *HOWARD?* I CAN'T QUITE BE *CERTAIN* BUT HE SEEMED TO BE ACTING A TRIFLE *ODD*...

I WONDER WHAT'S DN THE TUBE. *HMPH*... HAVE TO REPLACE THAT *SCREEN* ONE OF THESE DAYS.

IT'S GETTING A LITTLE *WORN!*

OH *BOY*, AND WHAT A TREAT IT'S GONNA BE!

YESIREE, HUGO, YOU'RE A DESPISED **GENIUS**, BUT IT'S ON THE BRINK OF INSANITY SO THAT'S COOL, I THINK.

HUM TEE DUM TUM TEE DEE DAH, DAH DAH DEE... ADJUST THE OLD **COLOR KNOB** HERE AND..

THE TELEVISION IS **STARVED** HUGO, HYEE, HYEE **HYEE!**

OH?

CHOMP!

SERVES HER **RIGHT!** SHE GAVE OLD HUBBY, NUGENT, **ADVICE** ON MY CASE WHEN HE WAS **TREATING** ME. MADNESS MAKES FOR STRANGE BEDFELLOWS...

I HAVE TO TELL HUGO TO CANCEL ALL FUTURE ORDERS FOR HOT DOGS WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO USE THAT ONE **AGAIN**.

SCRATCH SCRATCH

WHAT IS IT **NOW** DWARF? CAN'T I **EVER** GET ANY **REST** AROUND HERE?

I'VE EMPTIED THE WATER FROM THE **TUB**, MASTER DIMENT... YOU CAN START BASTING THE REAMS NOW

NOT NOW, YOU SILLY **FATUOUS** THING YOU! THERE'S STILL **ONE MORE** TO GO...

OH, MASTER, **NO** NOT THE...

TO **HELL** WITH AMENITIES! I'M **TIRED** OF BEING **POLITE**. YOU IDIOTS OUT THERE CAN JUST **WAIT** WHILE I...

YES! THE... **DOG...**

YARF YARF WURF

CLICK-LUCK!

THE LOUSY DOG USED TO BRING NUGENT HIS ***SLIPPERS.*** FROM WHERE I THINK, A CLEAR-CUT CASE OF ***AIDING AND ABETTING THE ENEMY!***

YUP, YUP, HERE WE GO ***AGAIN.*** DOG ESCAPES... ***TEMPORARILY!*** AHEM--- DOOR SLAMS IN STYMIED TELEVISION'S FACE, AND...

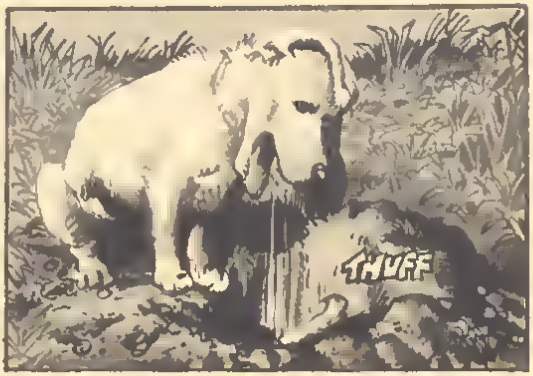
...DOG DISCOVERS HIS LATE MASTER'S ***SKELETON***, THE ONLY REMAINS FROM THE ***CLICK-LICK EXPRESS'*** RECENT RUN...

...AND DOG THINKING OF NOTHING BUT BONES, HELPS HIMSELF...

...CAREFREE, DOG TROTS OFF WITH PURLOINED ARMBONE OF FORMER MASTER...

...WHEREUPON THE ELATED BUT CLICK-LICKED DOG PROCEEDS TO ***DIG HOLE*** FOR PURLOINEDARM-BONE.

...SAID HOLE EXCAVATED, DOG GLEEFULLY DROPS ARM-BONE INTO IT.



NOW... HERE'S THE ***BEAUTIFUL*** PART, HUGO, YOU TWISTED ***PARODY*** OF A GRINNING ***HARRIDAN***, HYEE HYEE ***HYEE HYEE!!***

BEFORE THE TRAITOROUS CUR CAN FILL IN THE HOLE THE ARM-BONE SPROUTS TWO LITTLE BONEY *HANDS* WITH WHICH TO *COLLAR* THE MANGY MUTT...

YIIIPE!

...AND PULLS THE SQUIRMING CANINE *DOWN* INTO THE HOLE *WITH* IT...

RARF RARF RARF

...WHERE UPON IT INSIDIOUSLY SCOOPS HANDFULS OF MUSTY, SUFFOCATING *DIRT* DOWN ON TOP OF THE DOG AND ITSELF.

...UNTIL THE WHOLE SHEBANG IS BURIED, COMPLETING MY REVENGE IN A WAY WHICH, ALSO, OFFERS REVENGE TO ALL THE *BONES* OF THE WORLD, BURIED BY CALLOUS DOGS!

AND THE STUPID MUTT'S *MASTER* HAD A *HAND* ...OR AT LEAST AN *ARM*...IN IT TO BOOT!

WHADDAYA *MEAN*, IT WAS A CRUEL THING TO DO TO THE DOG? WHADDA *YOU* KNOW... YER *CRAZY*, Y'HEAR!! GROW UP!

THE DOG *DESERVED* IT... HE WAS *NUGENT'S* DOG AND NUGENT TRIED TO *CURE* ME WHEN ALL I WANTED WAS TO GO *NUTS* IN PEACE. AND THEN THAT CRETIN BETTY STEPPED IN, SO I CHOMPED *HER* GOOD TOO...

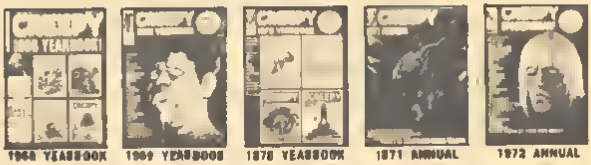
...AND EVERYONE'S ALWAYS SAYING TELEVISION'LL LEAVE YOU WITH *NO HEAD OF YOUR OWN* ANYWAY. AND SO I JUST HELPED IT ALONG, ME AND HUGO. WITH OUR *CLICK-LICK*.

LOOK... I DON'T HAVE TO *PUT UP* WITH THIS, YOU *IDIOTS!* QUIT *PERSECUTING* ME... I DON'T *CARE* IF YOU *DIDN'T* LIKE THE LAST NINE PAGES! I HAVE *WAYS TO GET REVENGE*...

SO I *WARN* YOU, YOU JERKOS... YOU'D BETTER NOT FLIP THIS PAGE... I *MEAN* IT... IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU, DON'T FLIP THIS PAGE...

I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO RESIST HYEE HYEEHYEE HYEEE!
CLICK-CLICK!
THE SLIPPED MICKEY CLICK-FLIP
WHEW. GLAD THAT'S OVER WITH... I TOLD YOU THE GUY WAS WEIRD, RABID READERS... SAY, ALL OF A SUDDEN YOU READERS ARE STARTING TO LOOK... DIFFERENT... LIKE...? GASP! ?CHOKE!... LIKE DIMENT!

CREEPY COLLECTION ISN'T COMPLETE? ACT NOW!



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PROLOGUE
THERE ARE SOME MEN IN EVERY AGE WHO CAN KILL WITH RIGHTEOUS CALM...
...DURING THE LATE 1880's, NATE CRILL WAS ONE OF THOSE MEN.
CRILL DID NOT ATTAIN THE WIDE-SPREAD NOTORIETY THAT ADOLF HITLER WOULD IN LATER YEARS..
"BUT THERE WAS A KINSHIP IN IDEOLOGY...
...THE PATTERN WAS THE SAME ON A SMALLER SCALE...
.. THOUGH NO SMALLER TO THE SURVIVORS OF HIS VICTIMS...
...TO THEM HIS VIOLENCE WAS IMMENSE!
...AND CRILL NEVER ANALYSED HIS ACTIONS. HE COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT HIS CHILDHOOD... IN FACT, HE COULD NOT EVEN REMEMBER IF HE EVER HAD ONE.
CRILL EVEN DENIED HIS VICTIM PEACE IN DEATH!
HE'D HEARD THAT SOME TRIBES' RELIGIONS STATED THAT THE DEAD NEEDED THEIR EYES TO FIND THEIR WAY TO THEIR GODS.
BAN
BA
TO CRILL IF ONE RED MAN BELIEVED THAT, THEY ALL DID!
FOR ONE MOMENT, ANOTHER LIFE WAVERED BEFORE CRILL'S JUDGEMENT... THEN HE TURNED, DECISIVELY, DIGGING HIS SPURS INTO HIS HORSES' SIDES, LEAVING HER ALIVE SATISFIED CRILL'S ODD HUMOR.
SHE WOULD HAVE TO LIVE WITH FIVE SECONDS OF BRUTALITY THAT WOULD LINGER AS LONG AS HER LIFE.

STORY: DONALD F McGREGOR / ART REED CRANDALL

THE OLD MAN SAT IN THE SHADE OF THE *BRUSH NUT*, WAITING FOR THE INEVITABLE

HE WAS OBVIOUSLY *DYING*... KNOWLEDGE AND ACCEPTANCE OF HIS CONDITION GLAZED HIS *PAINED* EYES.

BEYOND HIM, THE PASSAGEWAY TO THE *SACRED BURIAL GROUND* OF THE SPIRIT PEOPLE... WAITS!

WATERY EYES WATCH THE WHITE RIDER APPROACH. HE FORCES HIMSELF TO SIT ERECT, THOUGH HIS ACHING LIMBS TWIST ITS MESSAGE THROUGH HIM.

THEY WILL EVEN DESECRATE THIS SACRED EARTH. IT IS NOT ENOUGH THAT THEY HAVE *STOLEN* PART OF HIS YOUTH TO TEACH HIM *THEIR* WAYS AND *THEIR* LANGUAGE.

HE SPEAKS THIS ENGLISH NOW...THIS LANGUAGE HE HAS REJECTED SINCE *THEY RELEASED HIM BACK INTO CAPTIVITY!* AND THE WORDS ARE BRITTLE, ISSUED FROM DUST DRY LIPS, MOVING A TONGUE THAT IS NO LONGER MOIST. YET WORDS BORN IN SINCERITY AND BELIEF...

...YET NATE CRILL DID NOT HEAR THEIR MEANING AND CARED LESS. THE IMPORTANT THING WAS REACHING OREGON! THREE DAYS *LAYOVER* NEAR THE LAST *DEATH SITE* HAD REFRESHED BOTH HIM AND HIS CAYUSE.

THE SPIRITS WOULD ASK YOU NOT TO OFFEND THIS CROSSING TO THE RAINBOW TRAIL—

DO NOT DISTURB THE *T'CHINDI!!*

WHAT ARE YOU *BABBLING* ABOUT, OLD MAN?

T'CHINDI—THE EVIL PART OF THE BODY THAT *NEVER DIES!*

T'CHINDI—WHICH STAYS FOREVER—*WHICH BRINGS DEATH!*

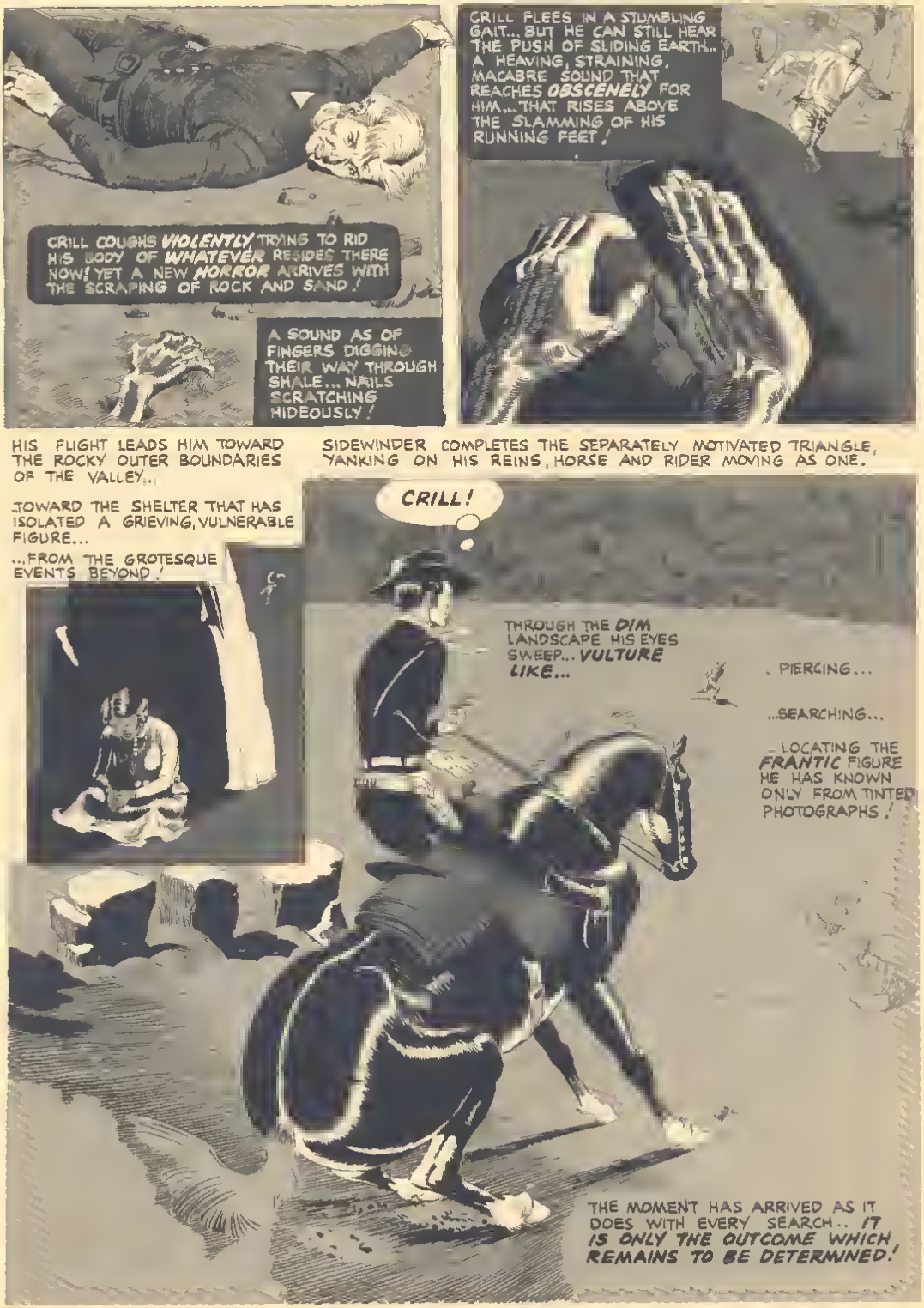
I AIN'T LISTENIN TO NO MORE HEATHEN NONSENSE!

CRILL LEAVES THE *BROKEN BODY* LYING IN THE DUST. THROUGH THE *MIST OF PAIN* THE DYING FIGURE FEELS THE DUST SETTLE BACK TO THE EARTH HE HAS WORSHIPPED... AND HIS FINGERS CLUTCH AT THE ARID GRIT.. AS IF TO COMPEL IT *TO MERGE WITH HIM IN HIS TIME OF NEED!*

THE SUN PASSES ACROSS THE BLUE FIRMAMENTS HE HAS GAZED UPON SINCE YOUTH... AND BURNS ITS PASSAGE INTO HIS FLESH!
SLOWLY...DISTANT SOUNDS NEAR ON THE COOLING DIRT A SILHOUETTE APPEARS OUT OF FOCUS, BLURRED ON HIS RETINA. THE DARK SHAPE BROADENS - A HORSES' SHOD HOOVES POUND DULLY...
..HERALDING APPROACH.
THEY BRING ANOTHER WHITE FACE ABOVE HIM!
THIS TIME HE DOES WHAT TOO MANY OF THIS PALE RACE HAVE DONE...HE FAILS TO SEE ONE DISTINCT LIFE ABOVE HIM..
HE SEES ONLY A RACE...
...AND SUCCUMBS TO THE VERY TRAIT HE HAS HATED SO LONG!
ANOTHER ONE OF YOU! WHY DO YOU BOTHER PUTTING THIS WATER TO MY LIPS!
I DON'T KNOW NUTHIN' ABOUT THAT, IF NATE CRILL'S IN THERE...THAT'S WHERE I'M GOIN'...
...SIDES... MY FAITH'S IN MYSELF!
YOU MUST BE NEXT TO DELIRIOUS OLD MAN.
WHY DO YOU WANT TO PROLONG MY AGONY?
YOU WILL FOLLOW THE OTHER ONE WON'T YOU? YOU WILL VIOLATE OUR FAITH AS YOUR KIND HAVE DONE SINCE THEY CAME HERE!
YOU WILL TRAMPLE THROUGH THE PASSAGE-WAY TO THE SACRED VALLEY!
I ALLOW YOU THAT WHITE MAN. WHY DO YOU NOT ALLOW US OUR FAITH?
FOR SOMEONE WHO'S DYIN' YOU'RE DOIN' A LOT OF TALKIN'. BUT YOU BELIEVE ANYTHING YOU WANT, LONG AS IT DON'T INTERFERE WITH ME.
THAT...IS MORE... THAN MOST OF YOUR RACE ALLOWS US. GO THEN... ...FOR DEATH HOVERS WITH ME NOW... ... BUT BEWARE...
.. FOR THIS GRAVEYARD IS NOT DESERTED!

I GUESS THAT OLD REDSKIN REALLY BELIEVES THIS PLACE IS HAUNTED!
COURSE IF I GOT IT RIGHT, IT'S THE T'CHINDI THEY'RE SCARED OF!
YOU'D THINK WITH ALLA THEIR CHANTS AN' CEREMONIES THEY'D THINK THEY'RE AS PURE AS SNOW...
...BUT NOT THEM!
THEY GOT IT INTA THEIR HEADS THAT THE EVIL PART OF PEOPLE STAYS ALIVE...
...THE T'CHINDI!
SPIRITS' SUPPOSED TO HANG AROUND WHERE THE CORPSE IS BURIED!
THIS IS AS GOODA PLACE AS ANY FOR BURYIN', I GUESS!
THESE ROCKY WALLS PROTECT THE BODIES FROM THE BADGERS AND THE COYOTES! ...AND DAMN IF THEY HAVEN'T LEFT THE CORPSES' CLOTHES IN CASE HIS SPIRIT WANTS TA' ROAM A BIT!
MITE COLDER'N HERE!
...BUT THERE AIN'T NO DOUBT CRILL COME THIS WAY. HADDA BE CRILL WHAT TRAMPLED THAT OLD MAN!
LESS'N I'VE LOST MY TOUCH AN' BEEN FOLLERIN' THE WRONG TRACKS ALL THIS TIME!
...DER MOVES OUT ...THE DESOLATE ...RETCH OF LAND.
...AIR HAS CHANGED IMPER-...LY, CASTING A CHILL THAT ...SPIRES WITH THE SHADOWS.
...ES OF DECAYING CORPSES THAT LIE ...RVICE OF THIS PLACE OF DEATH ...S NOT BOTHER HIM... FOR 'TO SIDEWINDER..
...ATH IS THE ONE ELEMENT OF LIFE HE ...ISTANDS BEST. AND THIS PLACE IS SUITABLE ...SHOWDOWN WITH CRILL... THERE AREN'T ...INNOCENTS WHO CAN BE MAIMED ...THE CONFLICT!

BUT SIDEWINDER IS WRONG.
THERE IS ONE OTHER PERSON IN THIS PLACE ...THE ONLY ONE THAT IS NOT AN INTRUDER ONE WHO IS INTENSELY ALIVE... BECAUSE OF DEATH!
SHE BRAVES EVEN THE T'CHINDI TO UTTER THE PRAYERS THAT WILL GUIDE HER LOVED ONE TO THE LAND OF THE SPIRIT PEOPLE.
HER MEMORIES AND TEARS ARE SPLASHED WITH BLOOD!
SHE IS UNAWARE THAT JUST BEYOND HER MAKE-SHIFT SEPULCHRE ...RIDES THE SAME GIANT FIGURE THAT BIRTHED HER MISERY.
NATHAN CRILL SLOWS HIS HORSE. HALFHEARTEDLY, HIS HAND WIPES AT THE SWEAT THAT COVERS HIS HORSES' HIDE. THE DAMP WIND TURNS TO ICE UNDER HIS FINGERS.. AND HE BECOMES CONSCIOUS OF EACH BREATH HE TAKES...
DAMN INJUNS AN' THEIR GRAVES... GOT 'EM ALL OVER THE PLACE!
I'M GONNA NEED A GOOD SLUG OF ROT-GUT BY THE TIME I GET THROUGH HERE.
THE SENSE OF CHILL AND BREATH LEAVE CRILL AS THE SOIL BUCKLES BENEATH HIS HORSE'S HOOVES. A WILD, INSTINCTIVE SOUND RIPS FROM HIS HORSE'S LUNGS..
...A SHATTERING SOUND OF PRIMITIVE TERROR THAT ERUPTS IN HIS OWN INSIDES.
FROM THE RIPPED WOUND OF EARTH A TENDRIL OF MIST WAFTS, HARDLY DISTINGUISHABLE.
CRILL DOES NOT SEE THAT, BUT HE DOES FEEL SOMETHING CARESS HIS FLESH FOR A MOMENT...
... A FRIGID, ECTOPLASMIC SUBSTANCE THAT CUTS THROUGH HIM BEFORE HE IS SLAMMED TO THE GROUND...


CRILL COUGHS VIOLENTLY TRYING TO RID HIS BODY OF WHATEVER RESIDES THERE NOW! YET A NEW HORROR ARRIVES WITH THE SCRAPING OF ROCK AND SAND!
A SOUND AS OF FINGERS DIGGING THEIR WAY THROUGH SHALE... NAILS SCRATCHING HIDEOUSLY!
CRILL FLEES IN A STUMBLING GAIT... BUT HE CAN STILL HEAR THE PUSH OF SLIDING EARTH... A HEAVING, STRAINING, MACABRE SOUND THAT REACHES OBSCENELY FOR HIM... THAT RISES ABOVE THE SLAMMING OF HIS RUNNING FEET!
HIS FLIGHT LEADS HIM TOWARD THE ROCKY OUTER BOUNDARIES OF THE VALLEY...
...TOWARD THE SHELTER THAT HAS ISOLATED A GRIEVING, VULNERABLE FIGURE...
...FROM THE GROTESQUE EVENTS BEYOND!
SIDEWINDER COMPLETES THE SEPARATELY MOTIVATED TRIANGLE, YANKING ON HIS REINS, HORSE AND RIDER MOVING AS ONE.
CRILL!
THROUGH THE DIM LANDSCAPE HIS EYES SWEEP... VULTURE LIKE...
. PIERCING...
...SEARCHING...
. LOCATING THE FRANTIC FIGURE HE HAS KNOWN ONLY FROM TINTED PHOTOGRAPHS!
THE MOMENT HAS ARRIVED AS IT DOES WITH EVERY SEARCH.. IT IS ONLY THE OUTCOME WHICH REMAINS TO BE DETERMINED!

SIDEWINDER BECOMES KEENLY ***ALIVE***, HIS NERVE ENDINGS TAKE ON ***NEW AWARENESS!*** THE HORSE DRIVES HIM FORWARD IN A FIERCE, POUNDING, BODY-JOLTING STRIDE THAT BRINGS CRILL UP SHORT, AND IN THIS ***NEW PERCEPTION***, IN THIS NEWNESS OF SCENT AND AUDIO HE REALIZES THAT SOMETHING IS WRONG, UNDENIABLY WRONG—THAT IT IS SOMETHING MORE THAN ATMOSPHERE THAT PERMEATES THIS SCENE.

SOMETHIN' ELSE BACK THERE!

THAT'S A ***NASTY HABIT*** YOU GOT THERE CRILL.

AS ONE ***DEFORMED LIMBS*** BURST THROUGH WEED AND DIRT! GRASPING, ***TALONED HANDS***, REEKING OF ***DETERIORATION***, SEND THE DARK HORSE INTO PANIC.

RAZOR-SHARP EDGES SHRED THE HORSE'S HIDE ...AND THE JET-BLACK HAIR RUNS ***DARK*** WITH ***GORE!***

SIDEWINDER HAS ONE GLIMPSE OF THE UPRAISED ARMS, OF THE CLUTCHING FINGERS OF THE ***DEFORMED LIMBS*** BEFORE HE IS FLUNG ***VIOLENTLY*** INTO THE NIGHT AIR...

...NO LONGER A MASTER OF HIS FATE...

...IF EVER HE WAS!

THE SCENE IS STRANGELY OUT OF ***LEGEND***, YET ***LEGEND*** THAT IS ***MORE*** THAN WHITE OR RED ***LEGEND***... SOMETHING THAT TRANSCENDS BOUNDARIES ...AND SHATTERS THE COMMON-PLACE!!

SIDEWINDER LANDS HARSHLY IN THE ***MIDST*** OF THEM AND THE SCENT OF MOLD AND ***DECAY*** FILL THE AIR. IT IS ONLY A LIFE-TIME OF LIVING UNDER A HARSH SUN WITH MANY HARSH ***CONFLICTS*** THAT ENABLES HIM TO REACT SO QUICKLY, THOUGH HIS INSIDES HEAVE WITH THE FIRST CONTACT OF THIS ***ROTTING FLESH!***

SIDEWINDER'S FINGERS CLOSE ABOUT ONE OF THE ***BIZARRE*** ARMS... AND THE FLESH GIVES WAY UNDER HIS GRIP...

...STRIPS AWAY FROM ***BONE*** AND ***SINEW***...

...***OOZES*** THROUGH HIS ***CLENCHED FINGERS*** LIKE ***PULP RIND*** FROM A ***RIPE CANTALOUPE!!***

DON'T KNOW WHO THAT WAS BUT HE'S BROUGHT HIMSELF A MESS OF TROUBLE!

BIT MORE'N HE BARGAINED FOR!

NEVER MIND THAT... MORE'N I BARGAINED ON TOO.

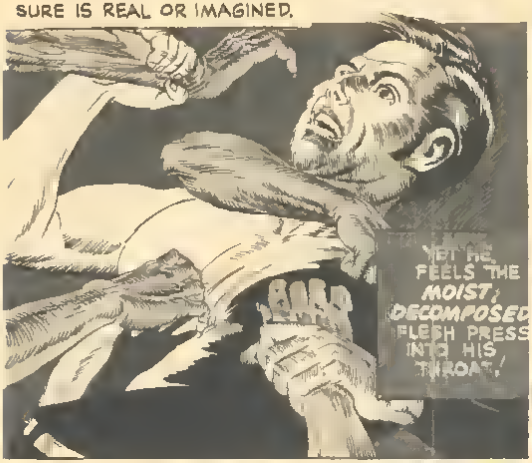
WHAT IN DEVIL'S NAME...!! THINGS JUS' KEEP CRAWLIN' OUTTA THE ***WORM WOOD*** IN THIS PLACE!

MURDERER!

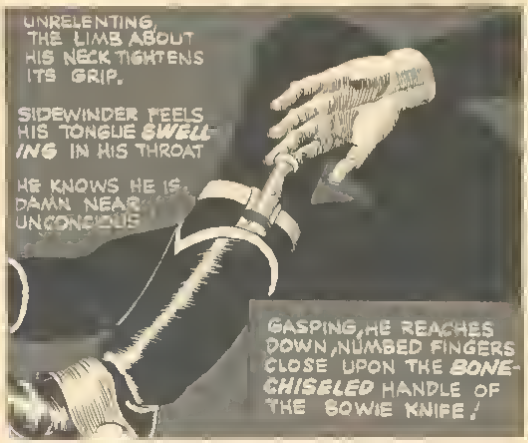
THE GIRL ANNOUNCES HER OWN STARTLED REACTION... IN A TONGUE GRILL CANNOT UNDERSTAND

AND IN THE ***SHADOWY MOONLIGHT*** HER EYES REFLECT ***AGONIZED RECOGNITION!***

AND WHILE CRILL CONFRONTS THE GIRL, FOR SIDEWINDER THE ***DARK SKIES DIM*** AND THERE IS A ***SCREAMING ROARING*** SENSATION ABOUT HIM THAT HE IS NOT SURE IS REAL OR IMAGINED.



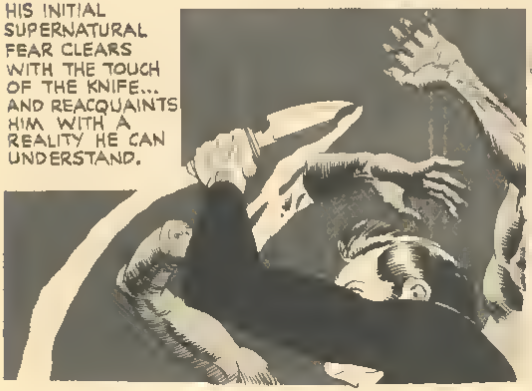
HE IS VAGUELY AWARE THAT HIS OWN ***BLOOD*** NOW FLOWS SLICKLY... PRESSING THE TORN FABRIC OF HIS SHIRT TO HIS BODY.



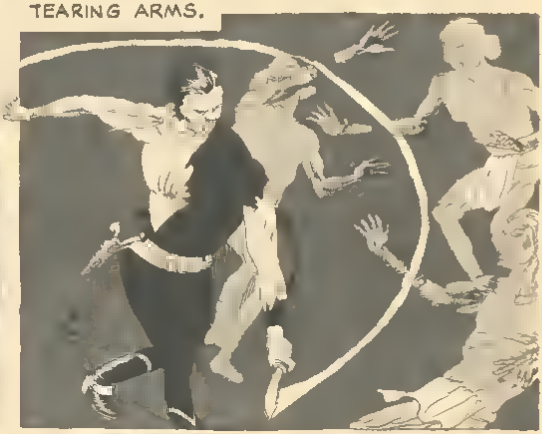
AND HE RIPS IT FROM ITS SHEATH!

THE BLADE GLEAMS DULLY

HIS INITIAL SUPERNATURAL FEAR CLEARS WITH THE TOUCH OF THE KNIFE... AND REACQUAINTS HIM WITH A REALITY HE CAN UNDERSTAND.

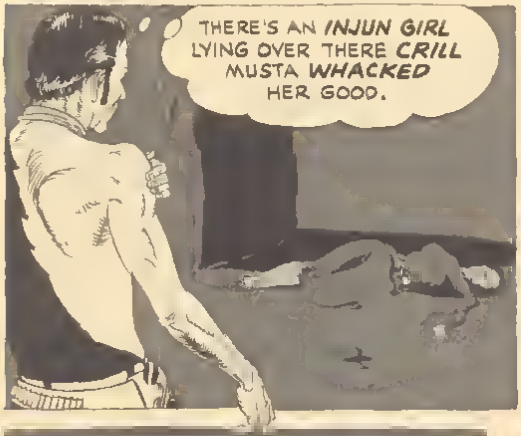


DESPERATELY HE ARCS THE BLADE UPWARD, IT'S MOMENTUM BARELY SLOWED AT IT ENCOUNTERS TEARING ARMS.



HE DRAWS IN A DEEP BREATH AND STAGGERS BLINDLY AWAY. THE SENSATION OF SURVIVAL ENTERS HIS MIND WITH EACH BREATH. ALREADY THE ***BRUTAL, SLICING*** SOUNDS OF THE SLAUGHTER BEGIN TO ECHO IN HIS EARS!

SIDEWINDER HALTS WHEN THE TREMBLING CLAIMS HIM. IT IS A TREMBLING HE HAS KNOWN BEFORE .. FROM OTHER CONFLICTS HE HAS WON...



THE SOFT, FRAIL *NOBILITY* OF THE FACE STIRS A SENSE OF LIFE IN SIDEWINDER QUITE UNLIKE THE SENSATIONS HE HAS KNOWN AT THE MOMENT OF THE CHASE.

HER EYES ARE *MOIST*, AND THEY CONVEY SOMETHING HE CANNOT QUITE GRASP.

PERHAPS WITH SOME *UNDERSTANDING* THEY COULD HAVE EXISTED SIDE BY SIDE...

PERHAPS THEY COULD HAVE GIVEN AND RECEIVED ALIKE...PERHAPS THAT WAS WHAT HER *WOUNDED* GAZE TRIED TO TELL HIM.

AND A SIMILAR SOUND BRINGS CRILL UP SHORT..

BOOM

CRILL'S CALLOUSED FINGER SLIPS OVER THE FAMILIAR, OILY CURVE OF HIS WEAPON'S TRIGGER, PULLING AT IT, SHOTS THUNDERING, ECHOING OFF THE DISTANT HILLSIDES.

BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!

CRILL TURNS..

CREAK!

...AND HIS FACE DRAINS OF BLOOD...

..AS HE STARES AT A ***GRUESOME APPARITION*** MORE TERRIBLE THAN THE OTHERS HE HAS SEEN THIS NIGHT!

AND THOUGH HIS SIGHT ***RIVETS*** ON THE RAVAGED FACE HE IS UNAWARE THIS IS THE ***SAME BEING HE SLAUGHTERED WITHOUT REMORSE.***

HE IS ***UNAWARE*** AS TO WHY THIS FIGURE ***STALKS*** HIM, A DEATHLY FIGURE NOW INCENSED NOT OVER THE SAVAGE ACT OF THREE DAYS PAST.

YAHHHHHH

–BUT OVER THIS ***NEW*** ACT, CRILL'S ***SLASHING*** ATTACK UPON ***HIS MATE*** DRIVING HIM FROM THE GRAVE, FEELING ANEW THE THRUSTING PAIN FROM HIS TORN EYES, SENSING THE HURT OF THE WOMAN WHO HAD NOT DESERTED HIM.

THE GIRL AND SIDEWINDER HALT AS THE APPARITION WALKS THROUGH THE DUSK, UNMINDFUL OF BOTH OF THEM, ITS MISSION ***FULFILLED.***

NATHAN CRILL'S MOANS RENT THE AIR HIGH-PITCHED QUIVERING SOUNDS THAT ***WAIL*** IN ***DESPAIR.***

SIDEWINDER TURNS TO QUESTION THE GIRL AND TO SEEK HER AID...

BUT THE SCENE THAT GREETS HIS EYES ***KILLS*** THE QUESTIONS ON HIS LIPS...

AND SHE HAS ***ALREADY*** GIVEN AN INSIGHT [illegible] WILL TAKE A LONG TIME [illegible] ETELY [illegible] HEND.

[illegible] NO WOMAN [illegible] AT HIM WITH [illegible] AS THIS ONE HAS.

EYES THAT ***SEE*** AND ***KNOW*** THE ***PAIN*** AND ***HURT***... AND ACCEPT IT... BUT NEVER LIKE IT!

THERE WAS NOTHING FOR IT NOW BUT TO LEAVE THIS PLACE FAR BEHIND.

[illegible]OTHER DAY, MEMORIES SLIGHTLY DULLED BY TIME AND A FEW HARSH DRINKS AND MAYBE HE WOULD TRY TO UNDERSTAND IT ALL.

BUT THERE WAS ONE TASK TO COMPLETE BEFORE THE LONG TREK TO THE DISTANT TOWN...

HE WOULD RETURN TO THE OLD MAN AND BURY HIM.

IT WAS THE LEAST HE COULD DO.

STORY: KEVIN PAGAN / ART: ESTEBAN MAROTO

INVOKING THE NAME OF ZEUS HAS SPARED ME THE CURSE OF CHARON, BOATMAN TO HELL.... I MAY NOW COMMANDEER HIS VESSEL.
BUT THE FATHER OF THE GODS SHALL AID ME NO FURTHER I MUST PROVE MYSELF BY DEPENDING ON MY OWN STRENGTH!
AYE TITAN! LONG HAVE YOU ENDURED MY PUNISHMENT FOR THE CRIME OF WISHING MORTALITY. PERFORM THE TASK I'VE SET, AND ONCE AGAIN MAY YOU TAKE YOUR PLACE AMONGST THE GODS!
SAIL NOW DOWN THE STYX, THE RIVER OF LAMENTATION! SAIL ..
A GHOSTLY BULL! THE SIGN OF ZEUS.
AS THE COMPACT CRAFT KNIFES THROUGH EERIE TUNNELS AND CAVES, BONY FINGERS OF MEMORY STIR IN THE TITAN'S BRAIN.
ROSANNA GRACEFUL. BEAUTIFUL ROSANNA.
IT WAS ONLY A HANDFUL OF MONTHS AGO I FELL DEEPLY IN LOVE WITH ROSANNA... A HUMAN! ZEUS LEARNED OF MY FEELINGS AND DEEMED SUCH A MATCHING SINFUL! THUS I BEGGED TO BE MADE MORTAL. IT INFURIATED HIM.
SINCE THEN, I'VE BEEN SENTENCED TO A LABOR OF TERRIBLE CONTINUOUS STRAIN! BUT FINALLY COMES A CHANCE TO REDEEM MYSELF IN FATHER ZEUS' EYES AND AGAIN SEE ROSANNA, WHOM I CHERISH BEYOND MY UNENDING LIFE.
BY THE FURIES... BEFORE ME...!

THE TITAN ROWS CLOSER TO THE WEIRD STRUCTURE, UNSUSPECTING OF ANY ENCHANTMENT UPON THAT WHICH SEEMS NOUGHT BUT STONE.
THE GARGOYLE... GGGAAGHH!
MY SHOULDER! ZEUS LEVIES THE CURSE OF PAIN ON ME! THE GATES! I MUST REACH THEM! MY TASK LIES BEYOND..
UUUUUHP
THE ADAMANTINE GATES... FORGED AND STATIONED BY WAR-GOD ARES! NOT EVEN MY SUPERHUMAN MUSCLES MAY MAKE THEM YIELD.
THE GATES OF HELL!!
IF I FAIL HERE, THEN I SHALL NEVER AGAIN BEHOLD THE FACE AND FORM OF THE WOMAN I LOVE NEVER. NEVER...
...NEVER!

SCREECHING, MAN-MOCKING GALES EXPLODE FROM BEHIND THE SHATTERED GATES! MERCILESS SPIRIT-WINDS PUMMEL AND CLAW THE TITAN'S FLESH.. POUND AGAINST HIS UNPROTECTED FACE.
HELL...! THE AFTERLIFE... THE REGION OF BOOILESS SOULS: AN UNREASONING, MADNESS-SPAWNED WORLD OBSCENE TO THE SENSES OF LIVING MEN..
I MUST GAIN ENTRANCE!
WEAKER HOWL THE DEATH COLD WINDS AS I ADVANCE! BY THE STYX THE JAGGED STONE CUTS MY SKIN LIKE BUTTER! I AM IMMUNE TO NOTHING HERE. THOSE STRANGE BEINGS HOVERING ABOUT GHOSTLY REMAINS OF MORTALS, WHOM I WONDER WERE GOOD OR EVIL?
MY MISSION... IT MUST BEAR FOREMOST ON MY THOUGHTS I AM TO DESTROY THE GUARDIAN BEAST OF TARTARUS THE THREE-HEADED HELL-DEMON GONE MAD! THAT WHICH PROWLS THESE FLESH-TEARING CLIFFS!
THE MONSTER NAMED...
...CERBERUS!

FIERCE GUTTURAL GROWLS SLASH THE AIR BEFORE THE TITAN AS... SHOCKED HE LOSES HIS HOLD AND FALLS BACKWARD AND A HIDEOUS, TRI-HEADED APPARITION LEAPS AFTER HIM IN BLIND, UNTHINKING BLOOD LUST!
HAVE THE FATES SET THESE STRANGE VINES TO BREAK MY FALL? HOLD! I SENSE ALIEN EYES WATCHING FROM THAT CREVICE.
MOMENTS AFTER, DEMON CERBERUS REACHES THE STICKY, FILTH-LADEN NET, THREE PAIRS OF BESTIAL EYES SPIT HATRED TO THE TITAN ... AS A MORE GRISLY HORROR APPROACHES FROM THE REAR
OH, ZEUS... WHAT LAND OF MONSTERS AND MADNESS BE THIS?
CLAK CLAK!
THE BEAST OF THREE HEADS TURNS ON THE SPIDER... RIPS IT TO SHREDS!
CERBERUS' BLOOD IS DISSOLVING THE WEB. MUST GET OFF IT...

SPIRITS SURROUNDING ME! CONTENT TO STARE ENDLESSLY STARE!
BEGONE! DO NOT ANNOY ME THUS!
CERBERUS COMES FOR ME NOW! FAIR CHANCE HAS LOPPED OFF ONE WORTHY HEAD. MAY MY STEADY AIM TAKE ANOTHER!
KRAKK
WHITE HOT PAIN FROM TWO TORN, OOZING NECKS WRENCHES A SAVAGE GROWL FROM THE MONSTER IT RUSHES THE TITAN, DRIPPING GORE AND RAKING CLAWS RAINING UPON HIS FLESH GRIM VISE-LIKE HANDS GRIP CERBERUS' FINAL LIVING THROAT AND SQUEEZE. GRASP... CHOKE.
...AND THE DEATH-DEMON SLEPT!
MY TASK IS DONE! GREAT ZEUS SHALL RESTORE MY STATION AND HEAL THESE WOUNDS! MORE IMPORTANT, ROSANNA WILL BE MINE IF EVEN FOR ONLY HER BRIEF MORTAL LIFETIME

NEVER DO YON SHADES TIRE OF WATCHING THE LIVING! I AM BESIEGED BY AN ARRAY OF COWLED FACES. COLD AND SHADOW-BLUE.
COLD SHADOW-BLUE
ROSANNA!!!
KNOW YOU HOW LONG YOUR EXILE-SENTENCE HAS LASTED, TITAN? ONE CENTURY!
YET TO YOUR ETERNITY-CONSCIOUS MIND, IT PROBABLY SEEMED MUCH LESS THAN THAT.
ONLY WHEN THE FEMALE WAS SAFELY DEAD COULD I OFFER YOU A CHANCE AT REDEMPTION! YOU HAVE WON IT BY PERFORMING YOUR TASK.
HERE IS HELL...! LAIR OF THE SOUL FRAGMENTS OF ALL MORTALS, GOOD OR EVIL. LEAVE IT NOW. TAKE YOUR PLACE WITH THE GODS. FORGET THE MORTAL WOMAN LOST TO YOU FOREVER, YOU WHO CANNOT DIE.
RETURN ME TO MY EXILE ...MY LONG AND ARDUOUS PUNISHMENT, ZEUS! I WOULD RATHER ENDURE DAMNATION THAN STAND BESIDE SUCH INTOLERANT FILTH AS YOU!
RETURN ME, ZEUS!
DONE!

I AM BACK IN MY PRISON THE ICY GALACTIC REACHES OF A REMOTE CORNER OF TIME-SPACE. I SHALL EXIST HERE FOREVER... MY BODY DISTORTED IN SIZE AND MATTER...
STRAIN STRAIN UNDER THE GARGANTUAN MASS BORNE UPON MY BOWED BRUISED BACK
I PRAY THIS CRUSHING WEIGHT WILL RELIEVE MY AGONIZED MIND OF MEMORIES THAT I MIGHT FORGET HER THE WOMAN I LOVED! OVER
FOR SUCH IS THE PLIGHT OF THE TITAN NAMED... ATLAS!
HMMM... OBVIOUSLY, OUR WORLD-WIELDING WONDER MUST BE INVISIBLE AND INTANGIBLE TO EARTHLY DETECTION. WHAT AN AWFUL STATE OF EXISTENCE! CAN ANY OF YOU IMAGINE A MORE MACABRE... HELL?

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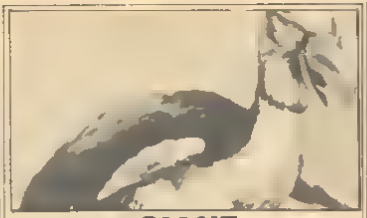

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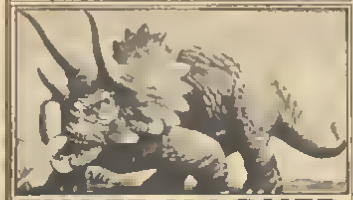

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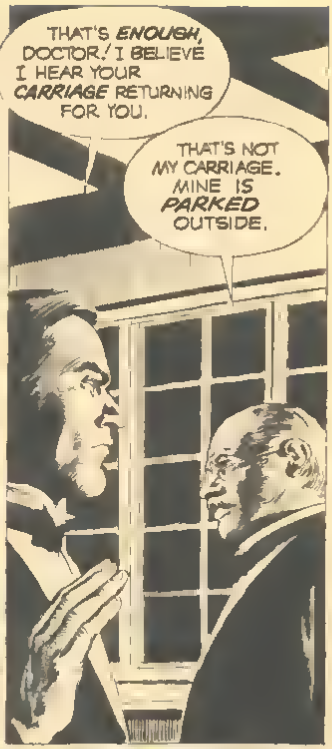
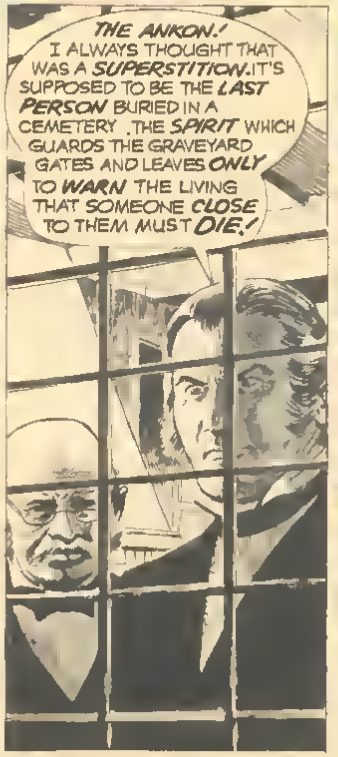
PROLOGUE:

THE *MACFARLANE* MANSION HAD REMAINED IN QUIET *APPREHENSION* THAT DAY IN LATE DECEMBER, 1882. AND LIKE ALL CONCERNED *RELATIVES* IN TIME OF SICKNESS, *JASPER MACFARLANE*, PATRIARCHAL HEAD OF THE PROUD *SCOTTISH* FAMILY, WAITED TO HEAR THE DOCTOR'S DIAGNOSIS OF HIS SICKLY BROTHER.





TO VISIT THE GIRL YOUR BROTHER CRIED FOR .. TO VISIT EFFIE'S HOME... FOR SHE, TOO, WAS DEATHLY ILL!

STORY: JACK BUTTERWORTH / ART: MARTIN SALVADOR

THE NEXT DAY, ONLY HOURS AFTER HIS DEATH, JEREMY MACFARLANE'S BODY WAS IN THE OLD TOWN CHURCH FOR THE FUNERAL.
YOU MUST CONTINUE THIS SERVICE AT THE GRAVESIDE, PREACHER! MY DRIVER HAS JUST INFORMED ME THAT THE OTHER PARTY IS LEAVING THEIR CHURCH!
EFFIE McLAREN'S FUNERAL HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOUR BROTHER, MISTER MACFARLANE! WE SHALL CONTINUE THE SERVICE HERE!
I SAY WE WON'T, PREACHER! EVERYONE HERE KNOWS THE LEGEND OF THE ANKON, THE SPIRIT OF THE LAST PERSON TO BE BURIED IN THE CEMETERY!
WELL, THERE'S ONLY ROOM FOR TWO MORE GRAVES IN THE CEMETERY! THE LAST PERSON BURIED TODAY WILL BE ANKON FOREVER!
AND I WON'T HAVE THAT HAPPEN TO A MACFARLANE!
CRASH!
IF YOU HAVE EVER BEEN FRIENDS OF OUR FAMILY, HELP ME NOW! SINCE I SAW THE ANKON LAST NIGHT, I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SLEEP!
I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN TO MY BROTHER! YOU MUST HELP US BEAT THAT VALLEY TRASH TO THE CEMETERY!

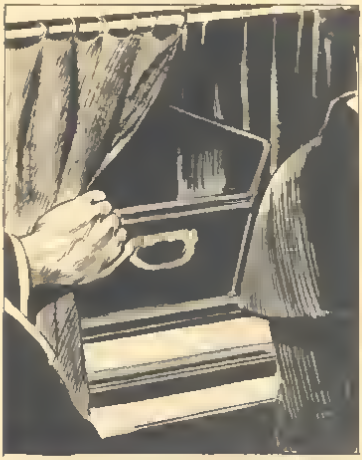
JASPER TURNED FROM THE CROWD AND *DRAGGED* THE *CASKET* TOWARD THE DOOR OF THE CHURCH, NEVER NOTICING WHETHER ANYONE HELPED HIM OR NOT.' HE COULD *STILL* SEE THE *MOCKING DEATH-GRIN OF THE ANKON!*'

AND HE SWORE ONCE AGAIN THAT HIS BROTHER WOULD *NOT* BE THE ONE TO REPLACE THAT *TORMENTED* SPIRIT.'

JASPER VAULTED ONTO THE *HEARSE* AS SOON AS THE COFFIN WAS SAFELY ABOARD.'

AND THE RACE WAS *ON,* UNDER A SOMBER, GLOOMY SKY.'

JASPER TURNED TOWARDS HIS CARRIAGE WINDOW AND SAW, TO HIS RELIEF, THAT THE CASKET WAS STILL IN PLACE. HE WOULD **RETURN** LATER TO FIND THE **FOOL** WHO SHOUTED AT HIM.



UP THE NARROW STREET THE CARRIAGE STORMED WITH JASPER CURSING THE DRIVER FOR MORE SPEED.

THE DRIVER PULLED ON THE *REINS*, DESPERATELY TRYING TO TURN THE COACH...

LOOK OUT! YOU'LL *OVER-TURN* THIS GOD DAMNED WAGON AND KILL US *ALL!*

PUSHING THE NERVOUS DRIVER ASIDE JASPER SEIZED THE REINS.

DAMN YOU, FOOL! *MOVE! MOVE!*

KEEP GOING. THE *STUPID* LITTLE URCHIN'S CRAWLING AWAY! ALL SHE GOT WAS A *BROKEN LEG!* *THANK THE LORD* THE CASKET'S STILL SAFE!

THERE WAS *NO TIME* FOR THE DRIVER TO ANSWER! SUDDENLY, THE RACE BECAME *REAL!*

IT'S THAT TRAMP'S FAMILY. I WILL RUN THEM DOWN!
NO ... THAT'S NOT WHAT YOUR BROTHER WOULD HAVE WANTED, SIR.!
THE MACFARLANE WAGON SCRAPED TO A STOP, INCHES AWAY FROM THE CEMETERY ROAD AS THE McLARENS SPED BY! THE RACE WAS OVER!!
YOUR BROTHER WAS A KIND MAN, SIR.! HE'D HAVE SEEN HIMSELF HURT BEFORE HE'D HURT ANOTHER!
I SHALL HAVE MORE TO SAY TO YOU LATER, DOLT... FOR YOU HAVE DOOMED MY BROTHER TO THE DEATH OF AN ANKON!
AT THE CEMETERY GATES, JASPER HAD A BRIEF, WHISPERED CONVERSATION WITH THE KEEPER.!
PERHAPS IF YOU ORDERED THEM TO, SIR, MY MEN WOULD BURY YOUR BROTHER FIRST.! OF COURSE, I DON'T HOLD WITH THE SUPERSTITIONS MYSELF, BUT IF IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE TO YOU--
THERE WON'T BE ANY ORDERS.! WE LOST THE RACE AND MY BROTHER WILL BE THE LAST TO BE BURIED!

OLD JASPER MACFARLANE, MY NAMESAKE. I CAN STILL REMEMBER THE GRAND FUNERAL THEY HAD FOR HIM! THE MACFARLANE NAME MEANT SOMETHING THEN!
NOW IT WILL BE A LAUGHINGSTOCK! THOSE WHO BELIEVE THE OLD SUPERSTITIONS WILL SAY I LOST THE RACE! THOSE WHO DON'T WILL CALL ME MAD!
I DID SEE THE ANKON! I'M NOT MAD!
READY FOR YOU NOW SIR!
WHAT?
DISMISS YOUR MEN! MY BROTHER IS THE LAST MACFARLANE TO BE BURIED IN THE FAMILY PLOT! AND HE'LL BE BURIED BY A MACFARLANE!
THIS IS AMAZING, SIR! IT'S A SHAME NO ONE ELSE IS HERE TO SEE THAT A MACFARLANE ISN'T AFRAID TO WORK WITH HIS OWN HANDS!
THAT'S A DEEP GRAVE, SIR. WHY YOU MUST BE AS STRONG AS YOUR BROTHER WAS! HOW WE ALL USED TO ADMIRE HIM!
JEREMY WILL BE MISSED, SIR!
NOT BY YOU, DRIVER!
SPANG!

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS FILL THIS GRAVE, OLD MAN, AND YOU'LL BE THE LAST PERSON BURIED IN THE CEMETERY! DON'T WORRY - I'LL WORK FAST! WOULDN'T WANT YOU COVERED WITH SNOW, WOULD WE!
THAT'S THAT! TAKE GOOD CARE OF THE CEMETERY, DRIVER! NOW TO GET THE HEARSE TURNED AROUND, AND...
WHERE IN THE BLAZES IS THE HEARSE!"
BLASTED HORSES MUST HAVE BOLTED WHEN I KILLED THE DRIVER! I MAY HAVE TO WALK HOME IN THIS! WHICH WAY'S THE GATE?
THERE! I CAN FEEL THE GATE POST!
A STRANGE GATE POST! A GATE POST WITH SMOOTH SKIN, AND HAUNTING EYES AND WISPY WHITE HAIR!
GOOD LORD! THE ANKON! I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY!

THE VILLAGERS DIDN'T BELIEVE IN THE ANKON AND THEY NEVER DUG DEEP ENOUGH TO FIND THE DRIVER! THEY SIMPLY BURIED JASPER IN A SHALLOW GRAVE ABOVE HIS BROTHER, FULFILLING WHAT THEY THOUGHT WAS JASPER'S LAST WISH!

JASPER BECAME THE LAST MAN BURIED IN THE OLD CEMETERY! AND ON A DARK NIGHT, IN THE MIST, THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN THE OLD SUPERSTITIONS SAY HE CAN STILL BE SEEN GUARDING THE CEMETERY GROUNDS

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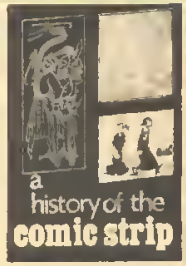

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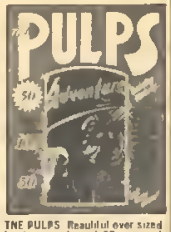

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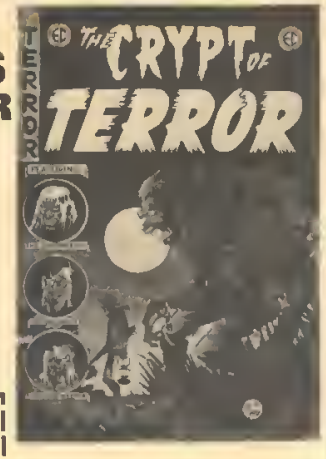

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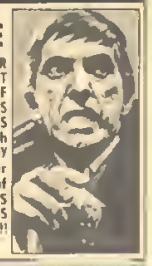

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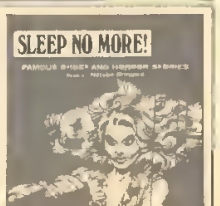

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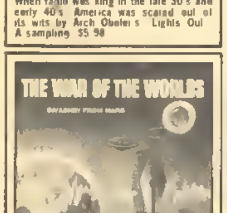

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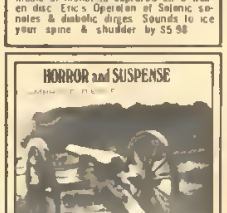

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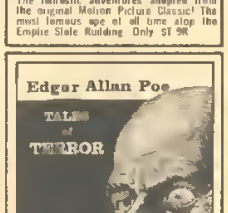

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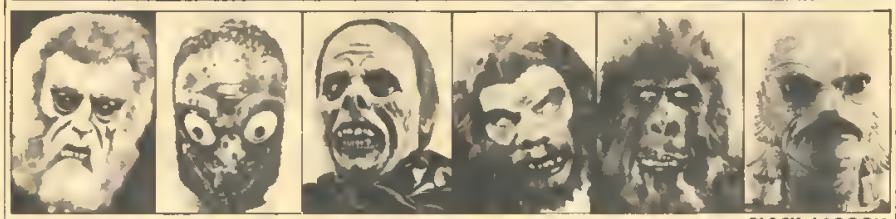

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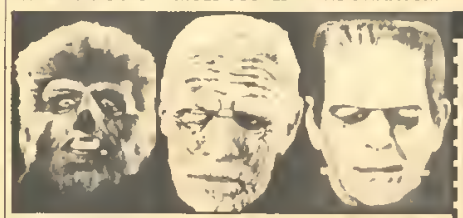

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STORY: R. MICHAEL ROSEN / ART: TOM SUTTON

HEY, THIS FISH IS ALMOST DONE!
I FOUND A SPRING OVER THERE BEHIND THE ROCKS. HERE'S SOME FRESH WATER.
LOOK AT THIS! SOMETHING BIT ME LAST NIGHT. HOW ABOUT YOU, BENNETT?
YEAH, THEY GOT ME, TOO-- BUT AROUND THE NECK. THE MOSQUITOES MUST COME BIG ON THIS ISLAND.
AFTER STORING FOOD IN THEIR BOAT, THEY EXPLORE THE ISLAND.
GOOD LORD, BENNETT! WHAT ON EARTH HAVE WE GOTTEN OURSELVES INTO?
IT FITS! IT FITS! IT WAS AROUND HERE--I HAD MY SUSPICIONS, BUT I THOUGHT IT WAS ONLY A STORY!
LOOK!
THEY'RE CATTLE!
I WONDER WHAT'S HAPPENED?
YOU DON'T SEEM VERY SURPRISED BY ALL OF THIS. IT'S AS IF YOU EXPECTED IT.
I DID... IN A WAY.
OF COURSE! NOW IT MAKES SENSE! HE WAS HERE!
WHO?! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? HAVE YOU HEARD OF THIS PLACE BEFORE?!
SURE I HAVE. SO HAVE YOU! DON'T YOU REMEMBER GULLIVER'S TRAVELS?
LILLIPUT?!!

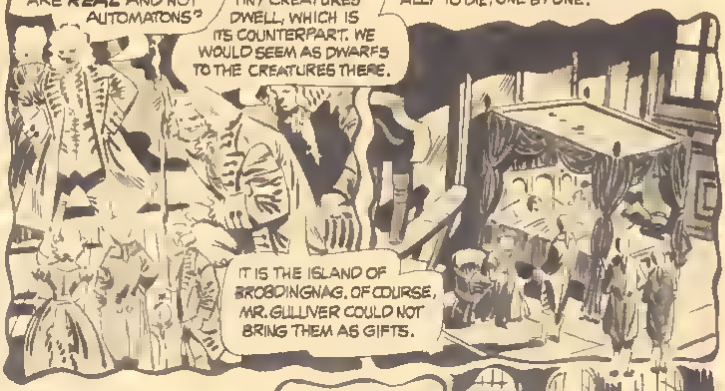
THIS BOOK... IT'S IN ***ENGLISH!*** HE LEFT IT HERE! LISTEN TO THIS: "I, BLEGFLOGEL, AM THE LAST PERSON ALIVE ON THE ISLAND OF LILLIPUT. I AM WRITING THIS OVERLARGE AND IN THE LANGUAGE TAUGHT US BY LEMUEL GULLIVER ON OUR VOYAGE TO ENGLAND. AN ENGLISHMAN FOUND THIS ISLAND ONCE, ANOTHER MAY AGAIN. HE TOOK SEVERAL OF US WITH HIM TO SHOW TO HIS KING, VOWING TO RETURN US AT A YEAR'S PASSING."

GOOD HEAVENS, DEAN SWIFT, DO YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THAT THESE-- AH-- GIFTS FROM YOUR FRIEND GULLIVER ARE ***REAL*** AND NOT AUTOMATONS?

INDEED SO, YOUR HIGHNESS. THERE IS, IN FACT, ANOTHER ISLAND NOT FAR FROM THE ONE WHEREIN THESE TINY CREATURES DWELL, WHICH IS ITS COUNTERPART. WE WOULD SEEM AS DWARFS TO THE CREATURES THERE.

IT IS THE ISLAND OF BROBDINGNAG, OF COURSE, MR. GULLIVER COULD NOT BRING THEM AS GIFTS.

"...BUT SOON, A STRANGE MALADY BEFELL OUR LITTLE BAND OF ADVENTURERS. ONE AFTER ANOTHER THEY FELL ILL-- ONLY I SEEMED TO BE IMMUNE. THEY WOULD AWAKE DAY BY DAY, COMPLAINING OF A SEVERE LASSITUDE-- EVENTUALLY TO DIE, ONE BY ONE."



"AND THEN HORROR, NAMELESS, UNGODLY HORROR! THOSE WE HAD BURIED BEGAN RETURNING FROM THEIR GRAVES TO PREY UPON WE WHO STILL LIVED, TAKING THE BLOOD FROM OUR BODIES, AND WHEN I TRIED TO DRIVE AWAY THE CREATURE MY WIFE HAD BECOME..."

"SHE TURNED INTO A WINGED MOUSE, A CREATURE CALLED A ***BAT,*** AND FLEW BEYOND MY GRASP!"

YOU THING OF EVIL! ***BEGONE!***

"AND SOON, ALL TOO SOON, I WAS ALONE. I KNEW NOT WHY I WAS SPARED, BUT I SOON DISCOVERED THE GHASTLY REASON!"

"IN A METHOD UNKNOWN TO ME, THEY TOOK POSSESSION OF MY MIND! THEY FORCED ME--

--TO REQUEST GULLIVER TO RETURN US ALL TO --LILLIPUT! INWARDLY REPULSED, I COMPLIED --RETURNING THIS LOATHSOME PESTILENCE TO MY ISLAND. I COULD NOT HELP MYSELF."

YES, I SHALL RETURN YOU TO YOUR HOME. I SHOULD NEVER HAVE TAKEN YOU FROM THERE, FOR I BROUGHT YOU ONLY DISASTER.

"SO I--AND MY UNDEAD LOVED-ONES WERE RETURNED TO LILLIPUT. AND WITH ME, I BROUGHT RUIN UPON MY HOMELAND!"

BLEGFLOGEL, AREN'T YOU HAPPY, TO BE HOME?

YES... BUT WOULD THAT THE MIGHTY ENGLISH SHIP HAD SUNK TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA ON IT'S WAY HERE.

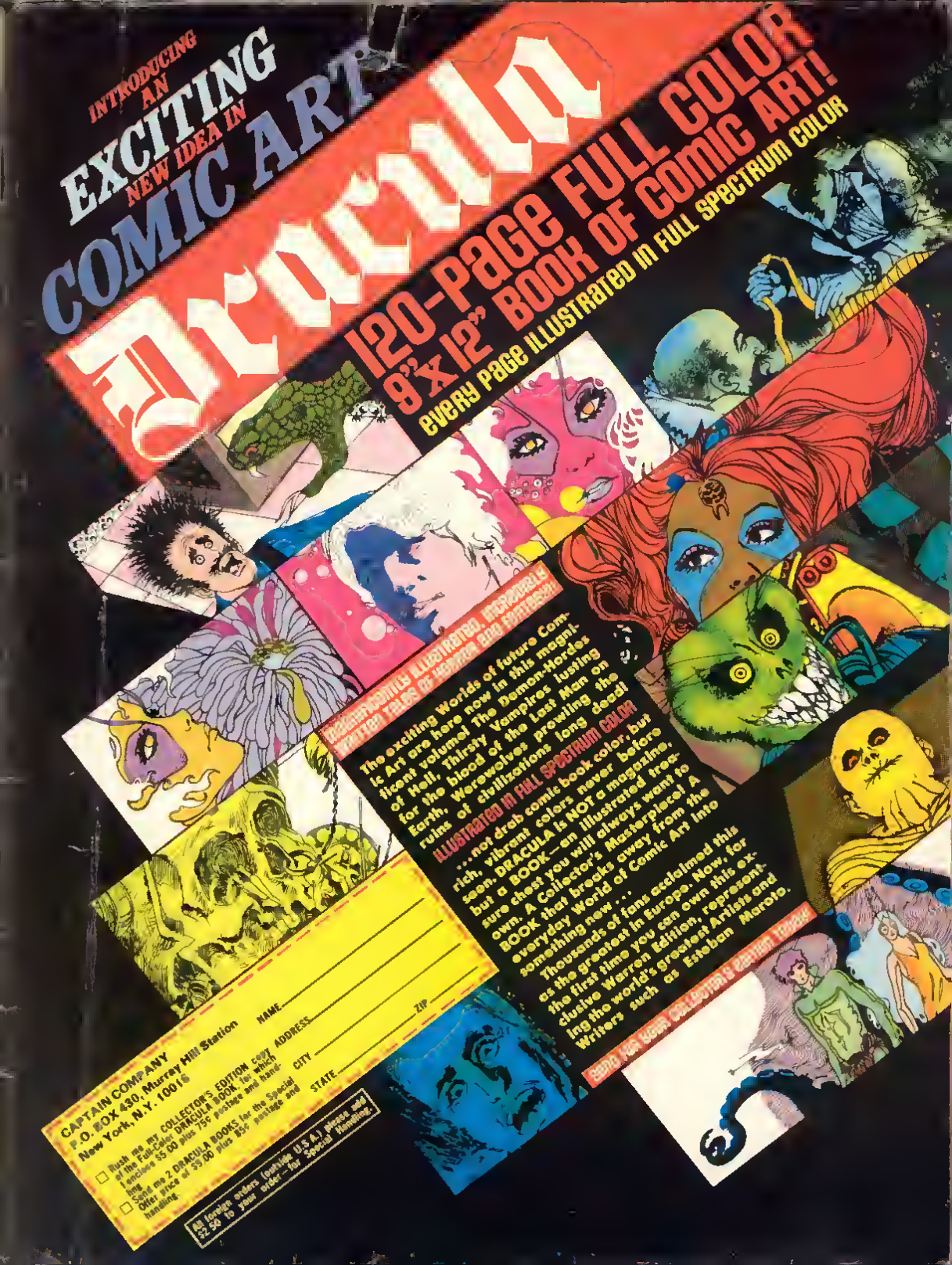
"ALTHOUGH I KNEW THAT THE PLAGUE WAS SPREAD BY THE INFECTIOUS BITE OF A CORPSE, I SOON LEARNED THAT IT WAS CARRIED ON THE ARMS OF THE WIND! BUT ALTHOUGH I KNEW, MY NEIGHBORS DID NOT. AS ONE AFTER ANOTHER OF THE SMALL POPULATION OF LILLIPUT DIED AND WAS BURIED I BLEGFLOGEL, THE UNWITTING AGENT OF THE DEAD, WAS REVILED IN THE STREETS."
"I WAS FORCED TO LEAVE THE CITY ALTOGETHER AND TO SEEK SHELTER IN THE WILDERNESS, FOR MY NEIGHBORS, DRIVEN BY FEAR, SURELY WOULD HAVE DESTROYED ME. I KNOW NOW THAT I AM ALONE, FOR ALL THE SMALL FIRES IN THE CITY ARE EXTINGUISHED. I AM THE LAST. ...OF MY RACE!"
"NOW I WILL RETURN TO THE CITY I LOVE. I SHALL LIVE MY LAST THERE. I ONLY PRAY THAT THE PLAGUE HAS NOT SPREAD TO THAT ISLAND TO THE NORTH." HMMM--HE MUST HAVE MEANT BLEFESCU...THE OTHER ISLAND!
LOOK, MAYBE BLEGFLOGEL WAS WRONG--LET'S SEARCH CAREFULLY TO SEE IF ANY OF THE TINY PEOPLE ARE LEFT ALIVE!
THERE IS BLEGFLOGEL! HE BROUGHT THIS CURSED THING UPON US!
THEY SEARCHED THROUGH THE DAY FROM AFTERNOON TO EVENING.
WELL, I'M AFRAID NO ONE IS LEFT. THEY'RE ALL DEAD.
YOU'RE RIGHT, I SUPPOSE. THEY WERE VAMPIRES THEY HAD TO BE.
YES, VAMPIRES!
WELL, WITHOUT BLOOD FOR SUCH A LONG TIME, EVEN VAMPIRES MUST DIE. I THINK WE CAN SLEEP SAFELY IN THE CASTLE YARD TONIGHT. TERRIBLE STORY HE TOLD! GOOD!

BUT AT NIGHT, THE GRAVE OF THE VAMPIRE OPENS, AND HE COMES FORTH SEEKING BLOOD--THOUGH HE HAS BEEN DEAD FOR CENTURIES!
UHHH.. ..MY THROAT...
VERNON! WAKE UP! THEY'RE HERE! THEY'RE STILL ALIVE! THE VAMPIRES!
WHAT TH-!
MY GOD! HOW CAN ANYTHING SO TINY HURT SO MUCH?!
RUN FOR THE SEA! IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!

THOUGH THE WATERS OF THE SEA WERE COLD THAT NIGHT, THEY REMAINED UNTIL SUNRISE.
I THINK THOSE LITTLE DEMONS COULD DRAIN AN ELEPHANT!
WHAT NEXT? WHAT CAN WE POSSIBLY DO?
WE'VE GOT TO DESTROY THEM.
WITH WHAT? TOOTHPICKS THROUGH THE HEARTS?
DO YOU THINK THEY'RE ALL HERE?
I DOUBT IT! WHO'D HAVE BURIED THE LAST FEW? WE'LL HAVE TO BURN EVERY BUILDING ON THE ISLAND.
I HOPE THAT FINISHES THE LOT OF THEM.
IT'S SAD TO SEE A SOCIETY DIE. MEN OF THE WEST HAVE AN UNFORTUNATE TALENT FOR DESTROYING EVERYTHING THEY TOUCH.
THEIR GRUESOME TASK DONE, THEY SET SAIL AGAIN..
ON THE EVENING OF THE THIRD DAY..
LOOK! ..THE ISLAND MENTIONED IN THE NOTEBOOK!
THE PLAGUE MAY HAVE SPREAD.

I ONLY HOPE WE'RE RID OF THOSE DEADLY THINGS!
IT CERTAINLY LOOKS INVITING. WE SHOULD BE THERE WITHIN THE DAY.
IT'S ALL SO HARD TO BELIEVE. ..I'M COLD..
COVER UP WITH THOSE BLANKETS. DIG OUT SOME OF THAT FOOD. WE'LL NEED SOME IF WE'RE TO MAKE THAT ISLAND BY DUSK...
GOD! THEY WERE EVERY-WHERE!
PITCH IT OUT! THERE'LL BE FOOD ON THE ISLAND.
.. SILENCE, EXCEPT FOR THE SMALL SPLASH OF FOOD...THEIR LAST
FASTER! CAN'T WE GO ANY FASTER! IT'S ALL SO LONELY HERE.
QUIET. IT WILL DO US NO GOOD TO RAGE!
I ONLY HOPE THAT IT IS BLEFESCU BEFORE US... AND NOT BROBDINGNAG.
VERNON STARED AT BENNETT... UNSURE OF HIS MEANING.
BLEFESCU... BROBDINGNAG! I DON'T UNDER-STAND ANY OF IT!

WHY? WHAT'S WRONG WITH BROBDINGNAG?
IF VAMPIRISM HAS SPREAD THIS FAR, IT COULD BE HORRIBLE! BECAUSE THE PEOPLE OF BROBDINGNAG WERE
FLAP, FLAP, FLAP!
THEY WERE--
GIANTS!
--CHOKE!--
BOY, I BET THAT DAMPENED THEIR SPIRITS A MITE! WELL, IT BROUGHT THEM DOWN TO SIZE ANYWAY. COLIPLA REAL GULLIBLE GULLIVERS ABOUT TO BE GULPED!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CREEPY NO 53

THE WAY OF ALL FLESH!

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EERIE NO. 49

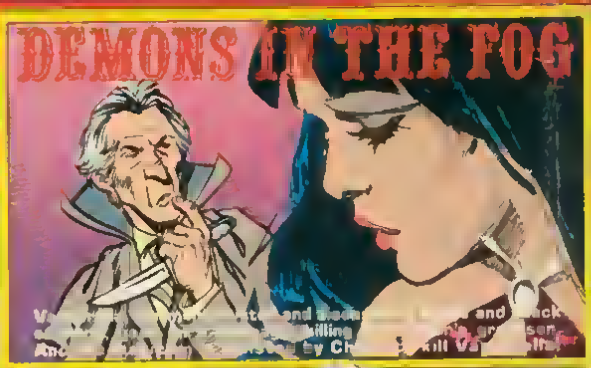
PREVIEW OF OUR NEXT ISSUES!

[illegible] again, Katia shiv[illegible] the [illegible] Arthur [illegible] the [illegible] has revenge [illegible] an unfaithful wife . . . and a murderous town!

The all-powerful Egyptian amulet of the dead, falls into the hands of the power-crazed. And the Mummy walks again, to destroy and leave behind a path of death!

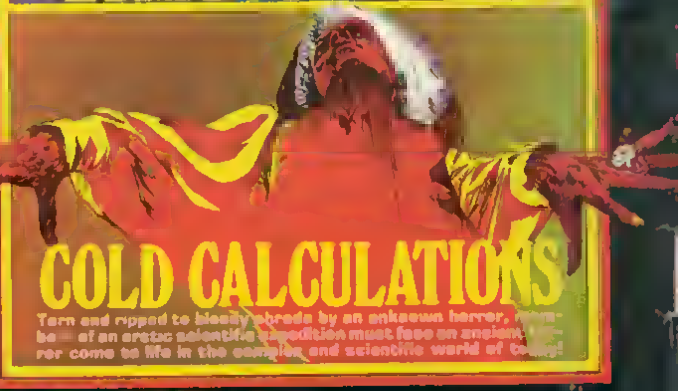
DEATH OF A FRIEND!

DEMONS IN THE FOG



[illegible] and [illegible]

[illegible] by Ch[illegible]



COLD CALCULATIONS

Torn and ripped to bloody shreds by an unknown horror, [illegible] be[illegible] of an arctic scientific expedition must face an ancient horror come to life in the complex and scientific world of today!

VAMPIRELLA NO. 25